

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE**

**March 1, 2011**

*Ron Angelo, Commissioner*

*Department of Economic and Community Development*

**HB 6384 AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT'S APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM TO  
THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

---

Good Morning Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, Senator Frantz, Representative Camillo and members of the committee. My name is Ron Angelo and I am the Acting Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you to discuss DECD's support for Governor Malloy's proposed **HB 6384 - AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT'S APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**.

HB 6384 transfers responsibility for the state's apprenticeship program and its related tax credit from the Department of Labor (DOL) to DECD. This bill helps fulfill Governor Malloy's vision of consolidating the state's labor training programs into a single comprehensive Connecticut Job Training program that will proactively and aggressively advance workforce competitiveness in the state. Along with HB 6384 the Governor's budget is proposing to transfer and consolidate several labor training/workforce development programs from DOL and OWC into the new program.

Through this consolidation, the state will be better able to meet the labor training and workforce development needs of Connecticut's business community. DECD, as the state's lead agency for economic development is the best positioned agency to engage businesses with regard to their workforce needs and as such can best direct how the state does and should provide labor training and workforce development. Input from Connecticut's business community is critical to the success of the state's labor training and workforce development efforts.

DECD has worked very closely with the Department of Labor, the Workforce Investment Boards, the Community College System and CETC, and therefore is well poised to be the central point of contact for job training initiatives that are employer based because we are the single point of contact for business.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments on HB 6384.